

Systematizing these relationships through a dynamic engagement framework can result in mutually beneficial outcomes, such as: a reduced reliance on oil from more volatile regions; the development of additional strategic partners in the war against terrorism; an enhanced exports market for U.S. and African goods and services; a practical "oil-revenue for poverty-reduction policy" framework that reduces African reliance on foreign aid; and the strengthening of democratic regimes and indigenous efforts to move African authoritarian regimes closer to democracy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations, in keeping with democratic foreign policy principles including the promotion of good governance, economic development, human rights, and enhanced relations with the United States and the African-American community, are submitted for consideration. Many of the recommendations echo calls already made by major stakeholders interested in ensuring sustainable development in the West African energy sector.

U.S. Government

The United States Congress should: Establish immediately a bi-partisan Congressional Advisory Committee that should: Meet with oil companies and other interested parties to discuss how to promote sustainable development through innovative energy sector initiatives. Host a summit with African heads of state and other officials to promote the importance of West Africa-U.S. energy relations. Prepare legislation to establish a Commission for Sustainable Development in West Africa.

Establish a Commission for Sustainable Development in West Africa that should: Consider legislation declaring West Africa of strategic interest to the United States. Conduct meetings with experts to gather information about improving and coordinating U.S. aid, trade, economic, environmental, and counterterrorism efforts in the region. Review efforts by African governments, oil companies, international institutions, and non-governmental organizations to advance development goals using innovative revenue-sharing models. Formulate a strategy for engaging West African states in a mutually beneficial partnership that seeks to promote specific economic, social, political, infrastructure, environmental, and counterterrorism goals.

Support the development of a world-class West African Science and Technology Institute that offers a curriculum that promotes excellence in higher education and research and development in science and engineering. The ultimate goal will be establish an education and training vehicle that will enable Africans to have a key role in improving Sub-Saharan Africa's living standards through increased productivity, economic growth, and diversification.

Provide additional debt relief to West African hydrocarbon states contingent upon achieving measurable targets related to financial transparency and good governance benchmarks.

Require federal grant recipients, West African hydrocarbon states, and oil companies to submit documentation of capacity building programs related to human development initiatives. Submit capacity building proposals to the aforementioned Commission for review and recommendations.

Review U.S. businesses operating in the area to ensure compliance with the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

Provide additional incentives to U.S. businesses to purchase goods and services from AGOA-eligible countries.

West African Hydrocarbon States

Governments of West African oil-producing nations should:

Establish oil ministers whose appointments are approved by parliamentary bodies.

Publish information on all oil revenues and participating oil companies.

Establish advisory bodies with representation from political parties, civil society groups (e.g., human rights activists and advocates for women and children), independent third parties (e.g., World Bank or major investment banks with stated and monitored priorities that earmark significant portions of oil revenue for investment in infrastructure and education), and members of the media.

Make public any recommendations on reforming real property laws conducted in the last five years.

Consider legislation that encourages relinquishment of inactive marginal fields by foreign companies to indigenous operators willing to develop their residual reserves through enhanced recovery technologies.

Submit to an audit of oil revenue distribution conducted by representatives of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, USAID, and ECOWAS.

Charge the appropriate parliamentary committees with examining the benefits of creating a Development Trust Fund based in Nigeria to fund the indigenous petroleum industry and to support a Gulf of Guinea School of Petroleum Technology (possibly located in Port Harcourt), with the cooperation and assistance of USAID.

Oil Companies

Oil companies interested in West African oil-producing nations should:

Make public annual audits conducted by reputable international firms relating to activities in West Africa to augment participation in the concept of "publish what you pay" initiatives.

Immediately publish oil-field specific and cumulative environmental and social impact assessments.

Participate in and expand local content and joint venture projects with indigenous operators/businesses with verifiable long-term social, cultural, and historic ties to the region/country.

Conduct capacity building and technology transfer initiatives in order to provide valuable skill sets to indigenous employees that may be used across different economic sectors.

Consider establishing at least one oil refinery for the host country.

Collaborate with host governments to relinquish or farm out inactive marginal fields, make their technical data available, and finance (if possible) local operators that will develop them.

Reach out to the African-American community, both through encouraging African-American owned businesses to take an active role in the enterprise of West African development and through the informational promotion of positive impacts that oil companies have in the region.

International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

International financial institutions should: Require demonstrated progress on enforcing laws relating to good corporate governance, including sanctions by the government for violations of procurement regulations.

Ensure that governments do not create a second, separate system of oversight for revenues generated by new oil fields.

Require that governments support the public dissemination of information about oil revenues by helping to offset costs of reproduction, distribution and communication of information to the public.

Ensure that public documents related to oil exploration and oil revenues are made available in both the official language and the indigenous languages spoken most predominantly throughout the country.

Support and publish an independent assessment of the human development constraints facing citizens of Chad, Congo-Brazzaville, Equatorial Guinea, and São Tomé and Príncipe, as well as all other hydrocarbon states in the near future.

Establish and publish benchmarks for determining whether a country is granted a loan or a grant, and how these benchmarks are tied to transparency, investment in human development initiatives, and good governance indicators.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Non-governmental organizations should:

Establish additional and enhance current monitoring programs that track compliance with transparency and revenue destination agreements between African governments, IFIs, the United States, and oil companies.

Establish a scorecard for African oil producing nations on the management of oil revenues, raising media awareness of "worst offenders" and "best practitioners," and including civil society participation in determining revenue destinations. This will initiate a healthy competition to attract direct foreign investment.

Submit recommendations to the Commission for Sustainable Development in West Africa on sustaining improvements in human development in hydrocarbon states.

Develop strategies to mobilize citizens for effectively engaging governments over policies to develop oil resources.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF COUNCILMAN EDWARD RYBKA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of my good friend Edward Rybka, upon his retirement following 20 years of dedicated service as the City Councilman representing the people of Cleveland's Ward 12.

Councilman Rybka was first elected to City Council in 1985. Equipped with a law degree and sincere concern for his richly diverse Slavic Village neighborhood, Councilman Rybka set out to energize the process of restoration and preservation in the place he has always called home. His focus on community activism began nearly thirty years ago, through his involvement with the Slavic Village Development Corporation. He was a founding member who volunteered in every capacity, including Chairperson of the Association, a position he held for several years in the early 1980s.

As the elected City Councilman, his spirited and unified effort to improve the neighborhood created vital bonds with residents, community leaders, and business advocates that still exist today. These bonds of hope and restoration created connections not only among the people of Slavic Village today, but also with the neighborhood's historic roots going back to its original settlement as part of the former Newburgh Township in 1814. His work helped to protect the historic fabric of the neighborhood; enabled new businesses to flourish; brought hundreds of new jobs into the neighborhood;

created safe and quality housing for families and the elderly; led the effort for a multi-million expansion of the Boys and Girls Club; and assisted in preserving green space in Mill Creek Falls and Washington Park.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Councilman Edward Rybka. His vision, integrity, and steadfast devotion to the people of Ward 12 defined his tenure and continues to frame this neighborhood. Councilman Rybka's unending faith in the notion that together, we can make a positive difference, will always exist as a source of possibility and light along Broadway Avenue and far beyond.

WELCOMING INDIAN PRIME
MINISTER MANMOHAN SINGH

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome India's distinguished Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. I was recently pleased to join 70 of my colleagues in encouraging Speaker HASTERT to invite Prime Minister Singh to address a joint session of Congress during his visit to the United States. I am honored that Dr. Singh has chosen to accept Congress's invitation.

During a visit to New Delhi in early 2001, I had the opportunity to meet with several government officials, including Dr. Singh, who then served as economic advisor to the Congress Party leader Sonia Gandhi. Already distinguished as the author of India's most successful economic plan, Dr. Singh's wisdom and common sense were evident. I was pleasantly surprised when, in May 2004, Manmohan Singh was sworn in as India's fourteenth Prime Minister. Dr. Singh's position as leader of the world's largest democracy, his keen intellect, and his successful economic plan for India lend him the admiration of governments around the world.

An accomplished economist, Dr. Singh began service in the Indian government in the 1970s. Ever since, his shrewd intellect and thoughtful consideration of complex matters have distinguished him among his colleagues. His elevation to the position of Prime Minister speaks volumes about his country's respect for intelligence and integrity in public leaders.

India is beginning to realize its enormous potential, and I am continually impressed by its citizens. When I came to Congress in the beginning of 1999, the first Member organization that I joined was the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, which seeks to inform Members of Congress about issues of particular importance to the sub-continent. Since then, my interest in India and my respect for its people have only grown.

As the world's largest democracy and second most populous country, India has faced and overcome challenges that few can fully appreciate. Through aggressive investment in its education system and infrastructure, India has experienced impressive growth as an economy and as a nation. After years of growth and advancement, India's position in the global community has never been stronger.

I was pleased to join my colleagues yesterday in supporting House Resolution 364,

which commends the continuing improvement in U.S.-India relations. The close relationship that our governments share advances the interests of our Nation and our people.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome Dr. Manmohan Singh to this joint session of Congress. I look forward to hearing Dr. Singh speak, and I look forward to continuing to build the important and special relationship between our two countries.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
THE HONORABLE JUDGE JEAN
MURRELL CAPERS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Judge Jean Murrell Capers for her significant and groundbreaking accomplishments in the legal profession, and for serving as an inspiration and role model for minority women and men in Cleveland, Ohio, and far beyond.

Judge Capers's unwavering integrity, strong work ethic and the belief in the nobility of service to others were gently woven into her psyche, brought to life by the example and teachings of her parents, Edward and Dolly Murrell. Judge Capers grew up on Cleveland's eastside. She excelled academically as well as athletically at Central High School. She was a city-wide tennis champion and basketball star, and was awarded a scholarship to Western Reserve University, where she graduated with a degree in education. As a young adult, Judge Capers became involved in the civil rights movement, and was an active NAACP volunteer. She lobbied local, state and federal legislature on many issues, including civil rights. She was also a significant leader in many local and national campaigns, including that of President Harry Truman, who was vocal in his opposition to racial segregation, and later, with Cleveland Mayor Carl B. Stokes.

Judge Capers enrolled in Cleveland Law School at a time when women, especially minority women, were discouraged from doing so. Focused and determined, she attended night classes and graduated with her law degree in 1945. She was elected to the Cleveland City Council in 1949, and held that office for the next 10 years. She remains active in politics, and even ran for Mayor of Cleveland in the seventies. In 1977, she was appointed by then Governor James Rhodes to a judgeship with the Cleveland Municipal Court; she was reelected and retired from the bench in 1985. She continued her law practice until just recently, reflecting a life-long vocation of professional excellence that focused on social and legal justice.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Judge Jean Murrell Capers, for her 60 year commitment to improving our legal system, carrying out our laws of justice, and inspiring and empowering others to attain their educational and professional dreams. Judge Jean Murrell Capers's professional excellence and accomplishment as a distinguished attorney and judge serves as a beacon of light and possibility for women, and for people of all backgrounds. Her impressive journey from the basketball court at Central

High to Council Chambers at City Hall to the Municipal Court Bench, to the picket lines and rallies, has cut a path built on tenacity, integrity, dreams and hope—and she will continue to inspire us all.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
JAMES R. DRINNON

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor James R. Drinnon on his retirement of 34 years of service in Public Health. I'm honored to represent this hard working constituent who has devoted great service to the State of Georgia.

In 1971, James R. Drinnon graduated from Mercer University in Macon, GA with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. Upon his graduation he was commissioned to the United States Army as a 2nd Lieutenant.

After beginning his public health career in 1971, Drinnon worked in Putman and Houston Counties. In 1981, he was transferred to the Georgia State Office of Environmental Health Section as the Occupational Health and Response Specialist. During his time of service Drinnon was named the 1976 Sanitarian of the Year GEHA. He oversaw the Olympic training manual for the 1996 Olympic Games and shared the Golden Hammer Award with the Fulton County Health Department for his service during the Olympics.

During his 34 years of service Drinnon has helped enhance and beautify the State of Georgia. He is an accomplished individual whose heart will always be in public service. Supporting his many accomplishments is his wife Elizabeth and four sons. Drinnon is also an active member of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Wilmington Island, GA, active with the National Environmental Health Association, Georgia Public Health Association, and Georgia Environmental Health Association.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
LOUIS MACON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Louis Macon, beloved husband and father, grandfather, great-grandfather, World War II Veteran, and friend and mentor to many.

Mr. Macon's unwavering devotion to his family paralleled his dedication to his community and to his church. With unyielding faith and conviction, he served as a Deacon at Mt. Zion Church of Oakwood, where his son, Dr. Larry L. Macon, is Pastor. He was born with a gift for storytelling, a kind heart and an iron will, and he easily drew others to him. His entire life consistently reflected grace, integrity, hard work and concern for others. In the early sixties, he blazed a trail of courage and enlightenment, piercing the ignorance of racially divided Cincinnati, where he became the first African American to own a gas station.